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NOTICE TO JUDICIAL OFFICERS

TAKING TESTIMONY IN CASES OF SLAVES ABDUCTED OR HARBORED BY THE ENEMY, AND OF OTHER PROPERTY SEIZED, WASTED, OR DESTROYED BY THEM.

1. The owner of slaves abducted or harbored by the enemy, or of other property seized, wasted or destroyed by them, shall, if living, either by himself or attorney, make affidavit of ownership and of loss by such abduction, harboring, seizure, waste or destruction; if the owner be not living, or if laboring under the legal disability of infancy, insanity or coverture, then the legal representative of such owner shall make affidavit of ownership and loss or injury.

2. In no case will the affidavit of the owner, attorney or legal representative be taken as evidence of the fact of loss, unless it shall appear to the satisfaction of the judicial officer taking the same that no other and better evidence can be obtained, which fact shall distinctly appear in the certificate of such officer.

3. The judicial officer shall reduce to writing the oral evidence offered in support of the alleged ownership and loss or injury; and the evidence thus reduced to writing, together with the affidavits taken by him, shall be transmitted by him to the Secretary of State within thirty days from the day of hearing.

4. The judicial officer shall state in his certificate whether the evidence so heard and transmitted is or is not entitled to credit.

5. Evidence shall also be taken, or affidavit made, and transmitted with the other evidence, showing the state or country of which the owner alleging loss or injury was a citizen at the time of such loss or injury and at the time of offering evidence or making affidavit.

6. In case the Department should be required to furnish certified copies of the papers filed, the charge for furnishing the same, as established by law, will be ten cents for every hundred words of copy.

WM. M. BROWNE,
Acting Secretary of State.

Department of State, Richmond, Oct. 25. 1861.



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